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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,079	06/12/2000	Shanker V. Iyer	39293/JEC/X2	4884

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EXAMINER

WANG, LIANG CHÈ A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 05/14/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.	IYER ET AL.
09/592,079	
Examiner	Art Unit
Liang-che Alex Wang	2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2000.

2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                            4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.                    6) Other:

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-16 have been examined

### *Paper Submitted*

2. It is hereby acknowledged that the following papers have been received and placed of record in the file:
  - a. **Information Disclosure Statements** as received on 10/15/2001.
  - b. **Change of Address** as received on 01/27/03.

### *Specification*

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet **within the range of 50 to 150 words**. It is important that the abstract **not exceed 150 words** in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. Page 3 lines 32, “**the first and edge devices**” should be changed to “**the first and second edge devices**.”

Appropriate correction is required.

#### *Claim Objections*

5. Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. Claim 7, line 3, “the security policy group” is lack of antecedent basis, please change it to “the security group” as indicated in claim 6 line 2.

Appropriate correction is required.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-5, 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Singh et al., US Patent Number 5,758,083, hereinafter Singh.

8. Referring to claim 1, Singh has taught a computer network comprising:

a first edge device (Col 22 line1, first network manager), coupled to a first private network (Col 22 line 1, private network is a network), the first edge device configured to create a first table with information of members network reachable through the first edge device (Col 22 lines 5-7), the first table being stored in a first database (Col 22 line 6, the

first table is inherently existed since a table in a database is just blocks of memory being occupied, and the information being stored in the database must occupy some blocks of memory, which could be viewed as a table);

a second edge device (Col 22 lines 2, second network manager), coupled to a second private network (Col 22 lines 2-3, private network is a network), the second edge device configured to create a second table with information of member networks reachable through the second edge device (Col 22 lines 7-9), the second table being stored in a second database (Col 22 lines 7-9);

wherein, the first and second edge devices enable secure communication between the first and second private networks (Col 8 lines 31-35), and the first edge device shares the first table with the second edge device and the second edge device shares the second table with the first edge device (Col 22 lines 1-11)

9. Referring to claim 2, Singh has further taught the computer network of claim 1, wherein the first edge device include logic for:

receiving a new route information (Col 2 lines 32-35, sender is viewed as first edge device, and it filtered event and trap information which is viewed as new route information);

storing the new route information in the first database(this is an inherent feature according to Col 22 lines 9-11, sender and receiver is sharing the information by synchronize the databases, therefore the new route information must be stored in the first database before being synchronized); and

transmitting a portion of the new route information to the second edge device (Col 2 lines 44-47, receiver is viewed as the second edge device which receives the filtered event and trap information from the sender.)

10. Referring to claim 3, Singh has further taught wherein the portion of the new route information is a route name (Col 22 lines 5-11, topology data in first database is considered as new route information, and topology data includes information on connections between devices in a network which could be viewed as route names.)
11. Referring to claim 4, Singh has further taught the computer network of claim 2, wherein the second edge device includes logic for:

receiving the portion of the new route information (Col 2 lines 44-47, receiver is viewed as the second edge device which receives the filtered event and trap information from the sender) ;

accessing the first database based on the portion of the new route information (Col 2 lines 44-47);

retrieving the new route information from the first database (Col 2 lines 44-47); and

storing the retrieved route information in the second database this is an inherent feature according to Col 22 lines 9-11, sender and receiver is sharing the information by synchronize the databases, therefore after the synchronization is being, the route information is being stored in the second database.).

12. Referring to claim 5, Singh has further taught wherein communication between the first and second networks is managed according to a security policy associated with the networks (Col 8 lines 31-35.)
13. Referring to claims 9-13, claims 9-13 encompass the same scope of the invention as that of the claims 1-5. Therefore, claims 9-13 are rejected for the same reason as the claims 1-5.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
15. Claims 6-7, 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singh, in views Rowe et al., US Patent Number 6,466,941, hereinafter Rowe.
16. Referring to claim 6, Singh has taught an invention as described in claim 5, Singh has further taught wherein the security policy is defined for a security group (Col 8 lines 31-35, distributed network managers is viewed as a security group), the group including member networks (Col 22 lines 1-3, first network and second network are the member networks since they could communicate to each other), a rule controlling access to the member networks (Col 2 lines 15-17, Col 9 lines 61- Col 10 lines 3.)

Singh has not taught the security group provides a hierarchical organization of groups and users allowed to access the member networks.

However, Rowe has taught a content management tool that provides a hierarchical arrangement of data tables (Col 20 lines 39-42) and allowed users to access the system (Col 21 lines 7-13.)

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Singh such that to have the security group provides a hierarchical organization of groups and users allowed to access the member networks.

A person with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification to Singh because having a hierarchical arrangement is one of the various of way to organize the context of a system, Rowe provide the hierarchical to allow user to have a better visualization with the organized data, which allow users to locate the information faster and easier. Therefore it would be obvious for Singh to use the hierarchical arrangement in Singh's system to provide the users a easy and fast way of locating information. Also, Rowe has taught the limitation of user allowed to access the database, this is a well known feature to have only the authorized users to be able to access the system in order to provide the security to the system, therefore, it would also be obvious for Singh to have users allowed to access the member networks in his invention.

17. Referring to claim 7, Singh has further taught wherein each member network has full connectivity with all other member networks (Col 22 lines 1-12, first network and second network has full connectivity with each other) and the security policy defined for the security group is automatically configured for each connection (Col 17 lines 10-15)

18. Referring to claims 14-15, claims 14-15 encompass the same scope of the invention as that of the claims 6-7. Therefore, claims 14-15 are rejected for the same reason as the claims 6-7.
19. Claims 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singh, in views of Rowe, in further views of Martino Jr. et al., US Patent Number 5,029,206, hereinafter Martino.
20. Singh in views of Rowe has taught in invention as described in claim 6. Singh in views of Rowe has not taught wherein the security policy provides encryption of traffic among the member networks and the rule is a firewall rule providing access control of the encrypted traffic among the member networks.

However, Martino has taught encryption of traffic among networks, and rules providing access control of the encrypted traffic among the networks (Col 4 lines 27-38.)

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Singh in views of Rowe such that to have the security policy provides encryption of traffic among the member networks and the rule is a firewall rule providing access control of the encrypted traffic among the member networks.

A person with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification to Singh in views of Rowe because having encrypted traffic between member networks and rules providing access control would enhance the network security as taught by Martino.

21. Referring to claim 16, claim 16 encompasses the same scope of the invention as that of the claim 8. Therefore, claim 16 is rejected for the same reason as the claim 8.

***Conclusion***

22. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is reminded that in amending in response to a rejection of claims, the patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited and the objection made. Applicant must show how the amendments avoid such references and objections. See 37 CFR 1.111(c).
23. Birkler et al., US Patent Number 6,516,314, has taught a first and a second database synchronizing databases with updates (Col 10 lines 50-67).
24. Bauer et al., Us Patent Number 5,884,325, has taught a system for synchronizing shared data between computers. (Col 30, lines 17-39)
25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liang-che Alex Wang whose telephone number is (703) 305-3391. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.
26. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sheikh Ayaz R can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

27. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding  
should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Liang-che Alex Wang *fw*  
May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003

*Ayaz Sheikh*  
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